

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2781

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2586

E.O. 116528 N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 22, 1977

1. ASAD'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. AFTERNOON RADIO BROADCAST NEWS OF ASAD'S RETURN FROM SOVIET UNION BUT OVERALL COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS LESS INTENSE THAN IN PREVIOUS DAY. THUSHRI BANNERED, "PRES ASAD EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF SYRIAN-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS. THE ENCOUNTER HAS LED TO STRENGTHENING AND DEEPENING OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES FOCUSED ON ASAD'S SPEECH AT BANQUET IN GEORGIA IN WHICH HE ASSERTED SYRIA'S DETERMINATION TO RECOVER ARAB TERRITORIES AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. ZUHAYR MUHSIN QUOTED IN BEIRUT STATING, UNCLASSIFIED

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"ALL SIGNS INDICATE THIS VISIT HAS MANAGED TO DISPEL ALL TRACES OF THE HEAVY CLOUDS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY GATHERED IN THE SKIES OF SOVIET-SYRIAN RELATIONS." OTHER STATEMENTS AND PRESS REPORTS QUOTED WHICH BOLSTER IMPRESSION THAT VISIT WAS SUCCESS.

2. EDITORIAL BY JIBRAN KURIYYA IN TISHRIIN CALLED VISIT

"LANDMARK IN SYRIA'S MOVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE."
HE INDICATED SYRIA HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GREAT IMPORT-
ANCE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND INTERNATIONAL
SIGNIFICANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
TWO STATES, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SYRIA'S FULL INDEPEN-
DENCE. HE CALLED FURTHERING COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION
IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AREAS "OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE."
EDITORIALIST IN THAWRA CALLED ASAD'S KIEV SPEECH IMPORTANT
AND CLAIMED THAT BY PROBING ITS MEANING ONE COULD DISCERN
THAT, "THE ARAB PEOPLE HAVE STARTED RESPONDING TO PROPOSI-
TIONS OF JUST AND GENUINE PEACE IN THE ME CRISIS TO SAME
DEGREE THEY INSIST UPON LIBERATION OF ALL THEIR OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES AND RESTORATION OF USURPED PALESTINIAN RIGHTS."
HE CONCLUDED THAT PRES ASAD'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION
AND THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY RESULTS IT WILL
HAVE CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE OVERALL POLITICAL MOVES
SYRIA NOW MAKING IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE.

3. ARAB OIL STATES. COLUMN APPEARED IN THAWRA LAMENT-
ING FAILURE OF "SUPPORTING STATES" TO AID SUFFICIENTLY
THE CONFRONTATION STATES. THIS FIRST SUCH EDITORIAL TO
APPEAR SINCE SYRIA MOUNTED HEAVY-HANDED MEDIA CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE ARAB DONOR STATES IN EARLY MARCH. COLUMNIST
CLAIMED CONFRONTATION STATES LACKING IN MOBILITY AND
FLEXIBILITY WHILE BEARING MILITARY BURDENS OF PAN-ARAB
RESPONSIBILITIES WITH WHICH THEIR LIMITED ECONOMIES COULD
NOT ADEQUATELY COPE. HE ACCUSED ISRAEL IN COLLABORATION WITH
U.S. OF TRYING TO EXACERBATE TROUBLE SPOTS IN ARAB WORLD
IN ORDER THAT ISRAEL "HAS CHANCE TO INTERVENE AND MANEUVER
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UNDER SLOGAN OF MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO." HE CLAIMED
THERE WAS STILL TIME FOR ARABS TO REALIZE THEIR MILITARY
POTENTIAL AND ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER "ARAB WEALTH WOULD
BE PLACED IN SERVICE OF THE BATTLE".

4. KHADDAM VISIT. ARTICLES BRIEFLY REPORTED KHADDAM'S AR-
RIVAL IN WASHINGTON AND HIS VISIT TO KING KHALID IN LONDON
EN ROUTE.

5. MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. PRESS CARRIED REPORTS THAT STATE DE-
PARTMENT HAD DENIED "ZIONIST ALLEGATIONS CLAIMING US CUR-
RENTLY PREPARING SETTLEMENT PLAN". PRESS SAID DEPARTMENT'S
SPOKESMAN HAD REPLIED TO RABIN'S ASSERTIONS TO ISRAELI
CABINET THAT US INTENDS TO ARRANGE OVERALL AGREEMENT
WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT ABOUT IN 4-8 YEARS.
PELLETREAU

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